off as irrecoverable. The 'Balance' pending at the end of the year was Rs. 1,56,773. The number of sales was small. In only 147 cases were properties sold, the amount involved being only Rs. 2,524. The Maintenance of Land Records continued to engage attention. The work has made considerable progress in the Padmanabhapuram Division. It has also been well started in the Trivandrum and Quilon Divisions. The Cardamom Department ceased to exist as a separate Department, and it has been merged in the Land Revenue Department, its establishment having been reorganised for the purpose. Under 'Forest', the weak points were the slow progress of the Settlement work, the absence of up-to-date Working Plans for most of the forests, and the increasing stocks of timber in the depots; the satisfactory feature was the increased efficiency of fire-protection, an area of less than 12 square miles being burnt in 1085, whereas the area damaged in 1084 was so large as 191 square miles. In the administration of the 'Salt Revenue', the policy of the Government has been to encourage the manufacture of home salt and also to reduce the volume of departmental action in the matter of the purchase and sale of Bombay salt. The consumption of home salt rose by over 37,000 maunds during the year, while that of Bombay salt fell by over 6,000 maunds. In the result, the total consumption rose by about 30,000 maunds. The average consumption of salt per head of the population reached the high figure of 25·7 lbs. Over two lakhs of maunds of Bombay salt were imported and sold by private agency, the merchants paying to the Government the duty of 1 Re. per maund. The 'Abkari Revenue' rose by about Rs. 70,000, mainly on account of the increase in the area under the 'Excise' system. The policy of reducing the number of liquor shops was persisted in. The total number of 'Country Liquor' shops fell by 1,434, and the number of 'Foreign Liquor' licenses also fell, from 99 to 92. Considerable unsettlement was caused to the 'Tobacco Revenue' by the sudden enhancement of the duty on Jaffna tobacco—from Rs. 90 to Rs. 900 per candy—which His Highness' Government (following the British Government) had to make on the 14th Kumbhom 1085, the enhanced rate continuing up to the 29th Karkadagom following. The 'Tobacco Revenue' fell by over Rs. 20,000, and, if the normal increase which would otherwise have accrued is also considered, the loss must have been more. The 'Customs Revenue' fell by nearly a lakh of rupees, the greater portion of the decrease being under 'Export Duty', due to the yield of the cocoanut tree being less in the year. The 'Stamp Revenue' increased by about Rs. 1,40,000.

Legislation.

5. Four ordinary meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year. Nine Regulations were passed, of which eight were for amending existing Regulations. The other one was to regulate Weights and Measures. The issue of Rules under this Regulation is now under the consideration of the Government.

6. Mr. Kuruvila's seat on the Legislative Council fell vacant some time ago, owing to the efflux of time. The Members of the Assembly coming from the Kottayam Division are requested to meet, under the presidency of the Chief Secretary to the Government, and nominate a person for this vacancy, for the consideration of His Highness the Maha Raja.

7. While on the subject of 'Legislation,' I would invite the attention of the Samastha and Nair Members of the Assembly to the Proceedings of His Highness'

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Government, No. 6472, dated 23rd December 1910, passing orders on the Report o what is known as the Marumakkathayam Committee, and the Draft Bill appended to the Government order. This Committee was appointed, in February 1908, in pursuance of a request made by several Samanthas and Nairs in the Fourth Session, asking for legislation on certain lines in regard to their personal law. The Committee submitted their Report in August 1908. The Report was issued to the public in the October following. His Highness' Government then allowed the matter to lie over for a time, so as to give to the people belonging to the communities affected an opportunity of expressing their opinions before the Government passed orders. As a wish has now been generally expressed that the opinions of the Samantha and Nair Members of this Assembly should be taken on the provisions of the Draft Bill, His Highness has been pleased to command that this shall be done and that the opinions expressed shall be submitted to him for consideration.

Administration of Justice.

8. The main feature about the administration of Justice was the large increase in the volume of Civil litigation. The number of *fresh* original suits rose from 47,800 to 51,312, and that of appeals from 2,916 to 3,365. The result of the increase of litigation, coming on the top of a substantial volume of congestion already existing in several of the Courts, was that a new District Court and several new Munsiffs' Courts had to be established, and a redistribution had also to be made of the jurisdiction of the existing Courts. These changes all came into operation on the 1st Edavom 1035, so that we have not yet had one year to watch their effect.

Agriculture.

9. The Agricultural Department has continued to do good work. I would specially mention here the progress made by the Department in combating the Cocoanut Palm Disease. The area affected is over 50,000 acres, scattered over 11 taluks. The three most infected centres are Kayancolam, Alleppey and Minachil. His Highness' Government sanctioned a scheme for Kayancolam and the neighbouring villages, and operations have also been since extended to Alleppey. The main features of the scheme are detailed in the Report; and as they are well known to you, I shall not describe them here; but I would content myself with saying that no *real* progress in this direction could be achieved unless the holders of the affected gardens co-operate *effectively* with the officers of the Agricultural Department; and I take this opportunity to press on such of the Members of the Assembly, as have come from the affected areas, the need for giving that co-operation.

Public Works.

10. The outlay on 'Public Works' rose substantially during the year. It amounted to Rs. 28,15,949, against Rs. 23,79,300 in the previous year. Of the total outlay, the Chief Engineer's Department accounted for Rs. 24,98,890, and the Maramat Department for Rs. 3,17,059. The large increase in the expenditure by the Chief Engineer was almost wholly on 'Original Works', due to the number of new works under construction, notably the Alleppey Pier, which alone consumed about Rs. 3 lakhs, also to the outright repairs of a large number of existing communications and buildings. Substantial progress was made during the year, by the Chief Engineer, in finishing several old works. The 'Kodayar Project' continued to make steady

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